

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of screening for ~~therapeutic~~ agents that may be useful in the treatment of a disease selected from hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases, COPD, asthma, and genito-urological disorders in a ~~mammal~~ human comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting a test compound with a human NPFF1 polypeptide in vitro,
- ii) detecting binding of said test compound to said NPFF1 polypeptide, and
- iii) identifying a test compound that binds to said NPFF1 as an agent that may be useful in the treatment of the disease.

2. (currently amended) A method of screening for ~~therapeutic~~ agents that may be useful in the treatment of a disease selected from hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases, COPD, asthma, and genito-urological disorders in a ~~mammal~~ human comprising the steps of:

- i) determining the activity of a human NPFF1 polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound or in the absence of said test compound in vitro,
 - ii) determining the activity of said polypeptide at a different concentration of said test compound, and
 - iii) identifying a test compound as a potential therapeutic agent useful in the treatment of the disease if the activity of the NPFF1 polypeptide in the presence of the test compound is different than the activity of the NPFF1 polypeptide in the absence of the test compound,
- wherein the activity of the polypeptide results in an alteration of intracellular calcium concentration or alteration of inositol phosphate concentration.

3. (currently amended) A method of screening for ~~therapeutic~~ agents ~~that may be~~ useful in the treatment of a disease selected from hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases, COPD, asthma, and genito-urological disorders in a ~~mammal~~ human comprising the steps of:

i) determining the activity of a human NPFF1 polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound in vitro,

ii) determining the activity of a human NPFF1 polypeptide ~~at~~ in the presence of a compound known to be a regulator of a NPFF1 polypeptide, and

iii) identifying a test compound as a potential therapeutic agent useful in the treatment of the disease if the activity of the NPFF1 polypeptide in the presence of the compound known to be a regulator of a NPFF1 polypeptide is similar to than the activity of the NPFF1 polypeptide at the certain concentration of the test compound,
wherein the activity of the polypeptide results in an alteration of intracellular calcium concentration or alteration of inositol phosphate concentration.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting is ~~in or~~ at the surface of a cell.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is coupled to a detectable label.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the test compound displaces a ligand which is first bound to the polypeptide.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is attached to a solid support.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is attached to a solid support.

12-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) Method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition useful for the treatment of a disease selected from hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases, COPD, asthma, and genito-uological disorders in a ~~mammal~~ human comprising the steps of

i) identifying a regulator of human NPFF1,

ii) determining whether said regulator ameliorates the symptoms of the ~~a~~ disease ~~selected from hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases, COPD, asthma, and genito-uological disorders in a mammal~~ human; and

iii) combining of said regulator with an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier.

26. (canceled)

27. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

28. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.

29. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

30. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.